



For Immediate Release
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MAYOR COLEMAN, OFFICIALS CELEBRATE AS VACANT BUILDING DEMOLITION MAKES WAY FOR NEW BUSINESS ON RICE STREET

SAINT PAUL, MN - Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, Councilmember Lee Helgen, local officials and community leaders celebrated today as a long vacant building at 855 Rice collapsed into a pile of rubble. Standing empty for 22 years, the adjacent structure at 857 Rice Street will be renovated to house Libby Law Office and their tenant, Sparc, a community development organization.

“I welcome Libby Law Office to Saint Paul and I’m pleased that our efforts to spur redevelopment on Rice Street are bringing new business, creating jobs and revitalizing this neighborhood,” Mayor Chris Coleman said.

“I’m excited that this redevelopment enhances the historic character of Rice Street while also allowing a thriving local business to relocate to a site that positively impacts the North End,” said Councilmember Lee Helgen, Ward Five.

“My vision for this property is an old-fashioned, main street law office, where we offer storefront legal services and advice in the areas of business law and real estate. I look forward to being an integral part of this neighborhood and the City of Saint Paul for many years to come,” said Kirsten J. Libby, owner of Libby Law Office.

The project involves the full rehabilitation of a historic two story building and the demolition of the adjacent one story structure for parking. Modifications will include energy efficient features such as recycled materials, energy efficient windows and furnace, pervious pavement and a rain garden. Reiling Construction is leading the project and expects renovations to be complete in October.

The total development cost is \$480,000 and is funded by Kirsten J. Libby, Capital Bank, the City of Saint Paul, Sparc, Historic Saint Paul and District Six.

The building was built in 1890 and has been vacant since 1989.

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Multimedia

- Video of press event available on August 18 at: <http://www.youtube.com/stpaulgov>

Resources

- [City of Saint Paul website](#)
- [Libby Law Office website](#)
- [Sparc website](#)
- [Historic Saint Paul](#)

Related Stories

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- [Mayor Coleman, Senator Klobuchar, Senator Franken and Congresswoman McCollum Kick-off J&J Distributing Improvements](#)